

Docket Management Facility  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
400 7th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20590-0001  
By Fax to 202-493-2251

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION  
DOCKETS

2006 APR 13 P 4: 21

04/13/06

To whom it may concern:

RE: Interim Rule "Validation of Merchant Mariners' Vital Information and Issuance of Coast Guard Merchant Mariner's Licenses and Certificates of Registry", as published in the Federal Register of January 13, 2006 (USCG-2004-17455). 324

I am opposed to the rule and I ask that the Coast Guard schedule public hearings in several locations around the nation, including one in reasonable vicinity to me. Why have public hearings not been scheduled? Public hearings are a very important part of any democracy and are almost always included in any interim rule request for comments.

I urge the Coast Guard to consider the detailed points made in the submission made by the Passenger Vessel Association of particular interest to me;

1. The Coast Guard has underestimated the burden in terms of time, travel, and expense that is being placed on individual applicants. This interim rule places an undue burden on all Mariners- in those maritime centers like ours that are located extremely far from the REC, the burden is heightened by travel expenses and time lost on the job.
2. The Regional Exam Center-only provision is restrictive and costly.
3. A Coast Guard license is not an identity document.
4. This interim rule is unwarranted
5. This interim rule will further burden the REC making it harder for them to process our credentials. In the past the REC has made every effort to help us get our credentials in a timely manner as we are a seasonal business.
6. As an alternative to this interim rule we feel that our local law enforcement agencies are very capable of this job and find no reason to do anything about finger printing other than trust our local agencies & neighbors to do it as we have been doing.

Sincerely,



Jeanie Ware, Marcia Vincent, Debra Dee  
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